

SOVIET POLICY IN* WARTIME

run by three secretaries.²⁰ The party's main press organ was *Rokhzar*, edited by Iraj Iskandari. In case of suspension by government order it was replaced by the daily *Razm*, whose editorship was then assumed by Dr. Keshavarz. In addition, the party's policy was represented by the papers *Azhar*, edited by Pishvari; *Marzi*, an organ of "antifascist organizations of Iran," edited by Dr. Rahmani; *Rast*, edited by Deputy Parvin Gonabadi; *Zar*, edited by Reza Rusta; and *Damavand*, edited by Fatahi. The last two claimed to represent the trade unions and the Azerbaijani **Turks**, respectively. In its social program the Tudeh avoided giving the impression that it might have revolutionary aims. Following the pattern adopted later in some eastern European countries, it did not call itself Communist. It demanded neither the nationalization of private property nor the collectivization of land. On the contrary, its platform included all the essential features of traditional liberalism, exactly as did the other Iranian parties. The Tudeh demanded progressive labor legislation, including social insurance, which would cover large groups including army officers, soldiers, and their families; the legalization of trade unions; improved standards of living for the peasantry; strict price controls to curb inflation; free education and general health services; the elimination of reactionary elements from public life and the restitution of democratic practices; equality for minorities; reform of the administration and of the judicial system; disarmament of nomad tribes and promotion of order and security; national industrialization; friendly relations with all of Iran's neighbors; and

the elimination of foreign interference. The one factor that might distinguish this program from that of other political parties was its stress on the welfare of the workers and of the peasantry.²⁷

The first year of the party's existence was devoted to organizational activities. The party press was established. A network of local

36 Iraj Iskandari, Dr. Mohammed Bahrain!, and Xur ed-Din Alamuti.

2" These points were compiled on the basis of the following party pronouncements: an editorial in *Rahbar*, June 25, 1943; an appeal to the electorate published by the official party organ, *Razm*, Sept. 9, 1943; the party's declaration containing instructions for its deputies in parliament, *Rahbar*, Feb. 28, 1944; the resolutions of the Tudeh Congress, *Rahbar*, Aug. 15, 1944; *Journal de Tehran*, May 11, 1944.